

NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 7, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Phone: (213) 897-3630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I-5 – TEMPLIN HIGHWAY NEAR CASTAIC **UPDATED JANUARY 17, 2005, 3:20 P.M.**

MUDSLIDE ON SOUTHBOUND I-5 AT TEMPLIN HIGHWAY – THREE SOUTHBOUND LANES AND TWO NORTHBOUND LANES REMAIN CLOSED AN ADDITIONAL 7-10 DAYS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS

North Los Angeles County – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces that a mudslide on the southbound Golden State Freeway (I-5) approximately five miles north of Castaic along the southern portion of the Grapevine continues to necessitate the closure of three lanes of southbound I-5 and two lanes of northbound I-5 at Templin Highway FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF 7 TO 10 DAYS in order to perform emergency roadway repairs.

Caltrans is repaving and restriping the median (center portion) of the freeway in order to provide three southbound lanes and three northbound lanes to motorists. However, the ground beneath the roadway is too saturated at this time to accommodate the new pavement. Caltrans crews and their contractor, Granite Construction, will be adding additional base materials to fill in and help dry out the sub-surface of the roadway. An additional 7 to 10 days will be required for this work and other repair work. One southbound lane and two northbound lanes continue to remain open to motorists at Templin Highway at this time. Commuters and truck drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes from northern/central California to southern California.

Caltrans and their contractor, state geologists and the California Highway Patrol are working around the clock on I-5 to dewater and stabilize the hillside, remove the mud and debris, and perform emergency pavement repairs -- while maintaining the highest degree of public safety. It is estimated that the entire mudslide cleanup, pavement repairs and slope stabilization project will last at least three to six months.



NEWS RELEASE

Page 2 of 2

Motorists can obtain the latest California freeway and highway closure information by calling the California Highway Information Network at 800-427-7623. By entering the State route number, the latest updated information can be readily obtained.

The speed limit will be reduced to 45 miles per hour in the construction zone for the safety of the motoring public. Motorists are also reminded that traffic fines are doubled in freeway work zones.

Closures are weather-permitting and subject to change. Signs and detours will be posted to assist motorists. Additional press release updates will be provided as work progresses. Caltrans thanks the motoring public for their patience and cooperation during this and other freeway repair and improvement projects. **STAY ALERT, BUCKLE UP, REDUCE SPEEDS, AND PLEASE *SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE*.**

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